

THE CHURCHES AND TO-DAY'S SERVICES

LOWLY SERVICE

Sermon by
REV. LLOYD W. TOMKINS.
Text: St. John xiii, 1-17.

There is hardly anything more touching and beautiful in all our Lord's life than this scene when He washes His disciples' feet. It was not forced, but perfectly natural when we understand the customs of that Eastern country, and so it becomes all the better because Christ did something which any of the disciples might have done, but which they were too loath to do. "Thoughtlessness and pride—how much trouble they bring to us all and how much good they keep us from doing!" In Eastern countries they wear sandals, a kind of slippers, instead of shoes, and when they enter a house they leave the sandals at the door. And then because the robes are draped over the head, you will see the wearer of them take his arms against each other. And when one tells another, or can number the thousand fat and hideous deeds which will mark the flood-beast in man in spite of the centuries of Christian civilization lying behind! God help us, that we have gone back to the barbarism of Cain, and that we think to bring justice through wholesale murder. Forgiveness is the answer to this, and when I am called my friend. For if we begin then we are as bad as the leaders of warring Europe. It is a little service—a lowly one—for you to forgive and forget for Christ's sake. Let the bitterness go, and the unkindness, lest they kindle a flame which shall spread misery everywhere.

"Forgive! Forgive! the hour is passing now.
The fortune of the future waits there.
After the storm is heard the singing bird.
After the rain appears the happy sky.
Not long ago Nature's aspects hold regret.
Forgive! Forgive!"

"Forgive! Forgive! Remembering the past,
Far silent land in memory's moonlight fair!
That shadow on its landscape like despair.
Is by regret for unforgiveness cast,
only by Love's forgiveness can we live;
Forget! Forgive!"

"Forgive! Forgive! It is the nobler part.
These are the only cures for heartache ill!
These are the graces of the strongest wills.
These are the powers of the humblest heart.
Ah, spend them ere Love's moment shall have set.
Forgive! Forgive!"

Archibald Rutledge.

CHRISTIANITY STILL LIVES, IN SPITE OF GREAT WAR

Because Men Have Failed to Be Christians, That the Faith Has Failed;

As though it were replying to the charge of the Philadelphia minister that Christianity has failed in the countries engaged in the European war, the Living Church declares that it is easy to say that the chief ecclesiastics, whether in Austria or Germany, or Russia or Serbia, ought to have cried out against the war and denounced their rulers; but that is to assume that it is the function of the church to review the political acts of the civil authority.

Such was the Hildebrandine view, and it created the medieval Papacy, but it was a false view notwithstanding, and in seeking to elevate the State it pulled down the church. The rulers of a nation are responsible to God and to their people for their policies. They should not be allowed to do what they please.

The church authorities of these nations neither were in position to know whether their monarchs were justified in declaring war, nor ought they to have presumed to pass upon the question.

The state is rightly sovereign in that field. The Pope whose universal jurisdiction is legally recognized in Austria, refused to give his blessing on the war, and urged that peace be maintained. Non-Roman Christianity was holding a world-wide peace demonstration at Constance, on the borders of Germany and Switzerland, when the war broke out. The Roman Catholic world was expecting to hold a similar demonstration at Liege, on the very day the German armies arrived at that city.

What could organized Christianity do that was not done? The state, not the church, must be held responsible for the crimes of the state. Men have failed to be Christian; Christianity has not failed.

Difference Between Happiness and Joy. Rev. W. D. Griffith Thomas, D. D., sheds an interesting light upon the words: "Rejoice in the Lord always."

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CHARLES L. HARKER

been given? Was not the heart of Judas dark indeed when he went from that same room out into the darkness (St. John xiii, 30) to prepare for his sinful deed? But the light shines out in the assurance here given of the forgiving spirit of Jesus. And perhaps the finest act of lowly service is shown in the pardon which we bestow upon those who hurt us. We all know too well the sting of hostility, but it leads to mighty results, and saves from fearful ruin. If there had been forgiveness in Austria this terrible war would not have come to shake Europe to pieces. It was the bitterness and the memory of real or imagined grievances that led the great nations to take up arms against each other. And when we tell the world, or who can number the world, fat and hideous deeds which will mark the flood-beast in man in spite of the centuries of Christian civilization lying behind! God help us, that we have gone back to the barbarism of Cain, and that we think to bring justice through wholesale murder. Forgiveness is the answer to this, and when I am called my friend. For if we begin then we are as bad as the leaders of warring Europe. It is a little service—a lowly one—for you to forgive and forget for Christ's sake. Let the bitterness go, and the unkindness, lest they kindle a flame which shall spread misery everywhere.

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PRAYER FOR PEACE IS ORDERED BY BISHOP

Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, Directed by Bishop Cheshire, to Use Special Supplication.

For services in the Episcopal

Churches of Raleigh, N. C., and in practically all the Episcopal churches throughout the State, there is being used now a special prayer for the nations, which we hope will be used by all that face each other, the major here one that Rt. Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, has directed to be used especially for this purpose. This prayer is as follows:

"O God, the protector of all that trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, nothing pure, nothing decent, nothing good, nothing that faces each other, the major here one that Rt. Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, has directed to be used especially for this purpose. This prayer is as follows:

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